IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly delete claim 7 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter therein and amend claims 3 and 8-10 as follows.

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently Amended)   A method of generating test sequences for evaluating the interoperability of communication systems connected through a first and second Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) gateway with respect to a desired mode of operation between the systems, the method comprising:

determining a number of operational states transitions that are required to implement the desired mode of operation of communication systems connected through a first and second gateway, wherein each operational state transition pertains to a first operation of the first VoIP gateway and a corresponding second operation of the second VoIP gateway; [[and]]

said determining step further comprising,

generating acyclic paths from a transition diagram representing possible transitions;

generating simple cycles from said transition diagram; and

combining said generated paths and cycles to form a final set of paths representing said determined transitions; and

testing each communication system by causing [[the]] each system to perform ~~specified~~ the determined transitions ~~between pairs of at least some of the operational states~~.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, including providing at least one of the communication systems in the form of an Internet protocol network.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 3, including providing at least one of the communication systems in the form of a switched telephone network.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 3, including selecting the desired mode of communication as voice communication.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, including providing an Internet protocol (IP) network as one of the communication systems, coupling the first VoIP gateway system to the IP network, and coupling the second VoIP gateway system to the IP network.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, including coupling a switched telephone network between the first and second VoIP gateway systems ~~and each of the first and the second end users~~.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, including eliminating from said testing step ~~operations~~ transitions concerning only the first VoIP gateway system ~~and the first end user~~, and ~~operations~~ transitions concerning only the second VoIP gateway system ~~and the second end user~~.